

REMARKS

This communication is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action dated September 9, 2007. By this communication, claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 10, and 11 are amended and claims 2 and 3 are cancelled with prejudice or disclaimer to the underlying subject matter. Claims 1-11 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's acknowledgement that claims 3-5, 7, and 8 contain allowable subject matter.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution the aforementioned claims have been amended to address the Examiner's concerns. Therefore, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 6, 9, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by *Takemoto* (U.S. Patent no. 6,335,742). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution, claim 1 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 3 thereby rendering this rejection moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection to claim 1 and its corresponding dependent claims are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Takemoto*. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, but have amended this claim to include the allowable subject matter of claim 3. This rejection is hereby rendered moot and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

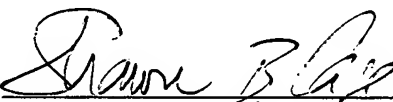
Conclusion

Given the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 4-11 are allowable, and this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests a favorable examination and consideration of the instant application. In the event issues remain, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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